

Certification as to the use of Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

On behalf of the Award Recipient Agency named below, I certify to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice that:

In accordance with the [DOJ Interim Policy on Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching](#) ("Interim Policy on FGGS") and BJA Program requirements, the following will be met for each case involving FGG for which BJA funding is used:

1. *The case will be submitted for entry into ViCAP*
 - Awardees must ensure the case has been submitted to ViCAP (where applicable) prior to proceeding with FGG.
2. *The case will have a STR profile searching in CODIS.*
 - A STR profile associated with the perpetrator must have been searched in CODIS and yielded no probative hits. Sufficient time should be allowed for CODIS searches and communication of any resulting hits before proceeding to FGG. BJA will consider exceptions (e.g., an immediate and ongoing threat to public safety) on a case-by-case basis.
 - If a STR profile is only searching in the SDIS or LDIS levels of CODIS, the awardee must work with their laboratory to pursue the feasibility of re-testing the sample to obtain a NDIS-eligible STR profile before proceeding to FGG.
 - For unidentified human remains, awardees must also have attempted a second DNA technology (mtDNA or Y-STR as appropriate) for inclusion in CODIS prior to proceeding to FGG. If a case has only a STR profile in CODIS (and not a second technology), permission will be needed from BJA before proceeding to FGG.
 - As outlined in Section VI in the Interim Policy on FGGS, the investigating agency must document its consultation with the laboratory that performed the CODIS upload of the unknown suspect DNA profile, prior to proceeding to FGG.
3. *Reasonable investigative leads will be pursued prior to proceeding with FGG.*
 - As outlined in Section V in the Interim Policy on FGGS, the investigating agency must have pursued reasonable investigative leads. Among other reasonable investigative leads, the awardee must take steps to exclude via DNA individuals relevant to the context of the case/investigation.

Examples may include persons of interest, the victim, or consensual partners.

4. *Investigator and Prosecutor concurrence will be obtained prior to proceeding with FGG.*

- As outlined in Section VI in the Interim Policy on FGGS, awardees must collaborate with both the law enforcement agency and prosecutor with jurisdiction over the criminal investigation, who must agree with proceeding with FGG.

Furthermore, I submit that the DOJ Interim Policy on FGGS will be followed in the investigation of any case involving FGG for which BJA funding is used.

I hereby certify that the requirements set forth herein will be satisfied by the Award Recipient Agency and each entity that receives any funding under this award, regardless of the amount received. I further certify and affirm that I have the necessary authority to act on behalf of the Award Recipient Agency with respect to the representations contained herein.

Important Reminder: A false statement in the certification or in the grant application that it supports may be the subject of criminal prosecution, including under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and/or 1621 and 34 U.S.C. §§ 10271-10273. Office of Justice Programs grants, including certification provided in connection with such grants, are subject to review by the Office of Justice Programs and/or by the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General.

Signature of Certifying Official

Printed Name of Certifying Official

Title of Certifying Official

Agency Name

Date